NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
February 5, 1999

Take Our Children to Work Day

This year The Field Museum is formalizing its participation in a national event designed to help children learn about what really happens in the work world. Unlike many other organizations which offer this event only to girls, we are opening our day to all children of Museum staff who are in Grades 4-12. Participate in "Take Our Children to Work Day" and bring a child (son, daughter, niece, nephew or other child that you help raise) to the Museum to see where you work and experience a day of activities and talks that helps them explore various career areas here at the Museum.

We are hoping to have as many staff members as possible participate. If you are interested in bringing a child to work on April 22, please e-mail or call **Tracey Pilch** in Human Resources (ext. 522) by February 26. Remember that you must get permission from your supervisor in order to participate. We would like to get a good indication of the number of staff members and children participating in order to plan the best day possible for our children. A formal registration will follow in March.

We would also like to invite departments to participate by offering an informal talk or planning an activity for children of Museum staff to attend. If your department would like to host our children in a talk or activity about the careers in your field, please contact Tracey Pilch or **Robin Wagner** (ext. 245) as soon as possible.

Submitted by **Tracey Pilch**

FIELD NOTES

Week of February 8

Public Events/Special Events

Museum Open Until 8 p.m. Monday

African Heritage Festival
- Monday and Tuesday

Motorcycle Film Series
- Wednesday 1 p.m., 3 p.m.
  Sunday 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

Dino Days
- Saturday 8 a.m.
  SF Hall/Simpson Theater

Dinosaurs and More
- Sunday 8 a.m.
  SF Hall/Simpson Theater

Staff/Volunteer Events

Transitions Party in Anthropology
- Wednesday 3:30 p.m.
  Zoology Classroom

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday & Thursday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell

WHAT A WEEK!

A February 2, 1999 memo to the Board of Trustees
*From President **John McCarter***

I returned to the Museum on Saturday, after a few days away, to find the following awaiting me.

First, **Mary Ellen Munley,** our Director of Education, and her education team had three hits:

- The American Honda Foundation awarded us a $50,000 grant to work on our literacy initiative with the Piccolo School on the west side of Chicago. At Piccolo, fewer than one-fifth of the students read at grade level, and this is an opportunity to demonstrate what a museum can do to improve literacy.
- We received a $90,000 grant from the Chicago Consortium for Higher Education to purchase video conferencing equipment so that we can do distance learning.
- We received $67,000 from the Best Buy Foundation to conduct three electronic field trips in 1999 for Indiana schools and to develop associated learning activities from the Museum's Web site on the topics of *Origins*, *Underground Adventure*, and dinosaurs.

This is a wonderful showing and illustrious of the effectiveness of Mary Ellen's leadership.

Second, our scientific staff was well represented in publications.

The current issue of *National Geographic* features three significant Field Museum initiatives on the subject of biodiversity:

- "Wilderness Headcount" focuses on **Tom Schulenberg**'s work with our partner Conservation International on Rapid Assessment Programs to survey the biological wealth of the eastern Andean slope in Peru, one of the world's richest biological areas.
- "Restoring Madagascar" highlights the biodiversity surveys and training programs that **Steve Goodman** has organized over the last decade, crediting him with the discovery of literally hundreds of new species.
- "In Search of Solutions" describes the plans that **Daniel Beletta** and **Larry Heaney** have developed to lessen the impact of development on Philippine rainforests, the site of long-term Field Museum training and research programs.

And as if that is not enough, the January 22 cover of *Science* magazine features an article devoted to the work that **Robin Foster** has been doing on the Barro Colorado Island in Lake Gatun of the Panama Canal, Panama. Robin and his team have been monitoring small light gaps created by fallen trees in tropical forests, and the findings provide insight into the role of such light gap disturbances in maintaining the high diversity of tree species in tropical forests.

Third, the Museum was bustling. The new *Origins*, *Margaret Mee: Return to the Amazon,* Grainger Gallery, and *Life Over Time* exhibits were filled with visitors. Motorcycles had a line that stretched most of the way down the mezzanine. Over the weekend we had 4600 visitors on Saturday and 3200 visitors on Sunday, an extraordinarily strong attendance for this time of the year.

On Sunday, I had the opportunity with Nick Pritzker to give a tour of *Life Over Time* and our SUE preparation laboratory to Steven Hawking. The meeting of Steven and SUE was marvelous. Steven was in town for the Pritzker Symposium on Inflation Cosmology, and we co-hosted a concluding luncheon in Stanley Field Hall for a group of world-renowned astronomers and guests.

And then on Monday we hosted Steven Spielberg at the Museum as he and Susan Crown showed his new film, *The Last Days*, a documentary featuring five Hungarian Holocaust survivors for the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

As this memo is titled – WHAT A WEEK!

Museum-Wide Cleanup Week: A job well done

Our first Museum-wide Cleanup Week was wonderful! Thank you all for the effort you put in to make this extraordinary venture work. In particular, I want to thank Larry Heaney (the "Hoover" Chair of Mammals) for his outstanding leadership.

The entire Facilities Advisory Group was deeply involved in the planning and operations of the clean-up week, and their work contributed greatly to the success of the program.

In fact, the week went so well that we are now planning a second Cleanup Week for this July. Heading the planning effort for Cleanup Week II will be Rodger Patience, Bill Stanley, Ali Obaidallah, and Ernst Pierre-Toussaint.

We should all be proud of what we did to make The Field Museum an even better place to work and visit. My thanks and congratulations!

Submitted by **Jim Croft**

The envelope, please . . . and the winners are . . .

. . . all staff and volunteers who helped to make Cleanup Week a true success story! In just one week (January 4-8) we were able to make great strides toward eliminating clutter and items on the floor. It was obviously a true team effort.

As the Facilities Advisory Committee went through the building to inspect everyone's accomplishments, a few departments clearly stood out with particularly clean and clutter-free areas (floors especially). To recognize their hard work we have awarded the following prizes:

Honorable Mention

Zoology/Mammals

First Prizes (Pizza Parties)

Zoology/Amphibians and Reptiles • Print Shop & Mailroom
Human Resources • Anthropology/Conservation

Grand Prizes (Gift Certificates for Massages)

Exhibits/Woodshop • Academic Affairs Office

Cleanup Week II: Coming soon to a Museum near you

As Jim Croft mentioned in his thank-you letter, the Facilities Advisory Group has decided that we would be wise to hold more frequent Cleanup Weeks. Many committees and departments are addressing the maintenance and cleanliness of the building, but each of us can help by keeping our areas free of clutter. Having a special time set aside seems to be a good way to encourage this regular cleaning and clearing-out.

During Cleanup Week II, tentatively set for the week of July 12-16, we will focus on areas which we missed the first time around, such as common storage areas shared by several departments. We will also encourage areas which did not do much in January (you know who you are) to make more of an effort this summer.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about Cleanup Week II.

Submitted by **Rodger Patience**

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME!

The following are new staff who started their employment during December and January.

Freddy Atkins	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Jennifer Benedict	Anthropology	Data Entry Assistant
Jacqueline Benitez	Public Services	Administrative Assistant
Andy Chan	Computer Services	Computer Systems Specialist
Jennifer Eagleton	Education	Manager, Educational Media
Dollie Gonzales	Anthropology	Intern
Wendy Jackson	Education	Scheduling Specialist
Daisy Janeway	Education	Scheduling Specialist
Tyler Keillor	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator
Jeffrey Kempin	Facility Planning	Stationary Engineer
Jordan Lungstrum	Education	Secretary, School Programs
John Maniatis	Anthropology	Data Entry Assistant
Carmen McKinney	Anthropology	Intern
Stephen Parker	Anthropology	Intern
Tracey Pilch	Human Resources	Employment & Internship Prog. Coord.
Rhonda Perdue	Security	Security Officer
Marieke Sacks	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator
Harald Schnieder	Botany/Birds	Post-Doc Research Associate
Susan Shoen	Special Events	Special Events Coordinator
Rebecca Severson	CCUC	Ethnographer
Rodolfo Soria	Facility Planning	Groundskeeper
Timothy Staggers	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Tanya Stanley	Stores	Sales Clerk
Encarnacion Teruel	Education	Manager, Performing Arts
Tracy Walker	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Supervisor
Eric Wert	Anthropology	Scientific Illustrator
Amanda Wosczak	Anthropology	Data Entry Assistant

GOODBYE and BEST WISHES!

The following are staff who are no longer employed with us as of December/January.

Stephen Bell	Education	Public Programs Coordinator
Kirsten Carr	Group Sales	Group Sales Assistant
Katherine Cauley	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator
Hershy Escudero	Development	Secretary
Charles James	Facility Planning	Engineering Assistant
Sandra Karushak	Development	Director, Special Gifts
Almas Khan	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Kimberly King	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Rebecca Merlo	Anthropology	Data Entry Assistant
Gail Loveman	President's Office	Executive Assistant
Ted Nottage	Security	Security Supervisor
Lisa Roberts	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Jaculyn Ross	Education	Secretary
Irma Sanchez	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Jasen Shrock	Finance	Administrative Assistant
Nina Sweeney	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator
Pamela Wrenn	Education	Coordinator, Teacher Programs

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Sunday night/Monday morning 2:18 am. (blue moon that night),
Jason and **Jennifer Allington** had a little boy:
Connor Thomas Allington
8lbs. 4oz., 21 inches long
Mother and baby are very healthy and happy. Daddy is shouting from the rooftops.

Submitted by the Special Events Department

Welcome Tracey!

The Human Resources Department is pleased to announce the hiring of **Tracey Pilch**, our new Employment and Internship Programs Coordinator. Tracey has a Masters degree in Human Resources Management from DePaul University, and comes to the Museum after working for five years in the Career Development and Placement Center at DePaul. In addition to assisting with staff and volunteer recruiting efforts, Tracey's first assignment is to formalize a Museum-wide centralized internship program.

Tracey will help to facilitate the recruiting and hiring process for both paid and unpaid interns. She will also help us to plan programmatic activities for our interns, have greater accountability for interns in the building, and communicate more clearly to our public about our vast number of opportunities. If you want to learn more about the intern hiring process or you are interested in having an intern, please contact Tracey at ext. 522. Tracey's desk is temporarily located within the Human Resources Department Office. Please join us in welcoming Tracey.

Submitted by **Marilyn Martinson**

Development welcomes Stephanie Powell

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of **Stephanie Powell** to the Development Office. Stephanie came to the Museum in 1997 as Assistant to the President. Effective January 25, she accepted the role of Manager of Auxiliary Boards and Special Projects with responsibility for supervising Women's Board and Field Associates programs, the Museum-wide calendar, and other special projects. For the moment, her phone number remains the same, ext. 846.

Submitted by **Willard White**

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

The Finance Department extends a warm welcome to **Tanya Myles**, our new Budget Analyst. Tanya will be working with **Lisa Wodis** and will be responsible for compiling, monitoring, and disseminating data for budget reports, including federal and foundation grant reports, the Senior Management Report, and monthly financial reports. We are especially lucky to have Tanya because she is familiar with our soon-to-be-implemented financial software, Lawson Systems. Tanya has a Bachelor of Arts from Western Illinois University and has extensive financial experience with Robert Half Corporation and CCH Incorporated. We are very happy she has decided to join us here at the Museum.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin Swagel	Zoology – Fishes	15 years

CONGRATULATIONS!

MAYOR'S WEEKLY TRAFFIC BULLETIN

New /priority

Beginning February 8, the reconstruction gets underway for the Stevenson Expressway between Pulaski and Canal. On that date, the inbound Damen/Ashland exit ramp and inbound Damen entrance ramp will close. On February 22, mainline work begins with traffic reduced to two lanes in each direction on the expressway. Also on February 22, the inbound exit ramp to Cermak/Chinatown and the outbound Cermak entrance ramp will close.This first phase of the project will extend into November. The second phase of the project will occur in 2000. Motorists are strongly urged to take the CTA Orange or Blue Lines to avoid congestion.

Downtown special events

Lake Shore Drive between 31st Street and Chicago will be congested at times, particularly the weekends of February 13-14 and 20-21, as a result of the Chicago Auto Show at McCormick Place from Friday, February 12 through Sunday, February 21.

Submitted by **Diane White**

Come party with Anthropology

The Anthropology Department would like to invite all interested to a Transitions Party on Wednesday, February 10 at 3:30 p.m. in the Zoology Classroom. The gathering is for all to welcome new employees, and to say goodbye to those leaving us.

Submitted by the Anthropology Department

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!